

removable storage medium;

information converting means for converting digital information received by said digital information receiving means and digital information read by said drive means into at least one of visible and audible data; and

switch means for switching a connection between one of said digital information receiving means and said information converting means, said digital information receiving means and said drive means, and said drive means and said information converting means.

12. (ONCE AMENDED) An apparatus comprising:

a digital information receiver receiving digital information provided via a communication medium;

a drive device reading digital information from, and writing information to, a removable storage medium;

a converter converting digital information received by said digital information receiver and digital information read by said drive device into at least one of visible and audible data; and

a switch switching a connection between said digital information receiver and said converter, between said digital information receiver and said drive device, and between said drive device and said converter.

16. (ONCE AMENDED) An apparatus comprising:

a communication path providing digital data;

a storage medium storing digital data;

a converter converting digital data into at least one of visible and audible data; and

a switch having

a first switch position which connects digital data provided by the communication path to the converter so that the converter converts the digital data into at least one of visible and audible data,

a second switch position which connects digital data read from the storage medium to the converter so that the converter converts the digital data read from the storage medium into at least one of visible and audible data, and

a third switch position which connects digital data provided by the communication path to the storage medium so that the digital data provided via the communication path is

stored in the storage medium.

20. (ONCE AMENDED) An apparatus comprising:

a communication path providing digital data;

a storage medium storing digital data;

a converter converting digital data into at least one of visible and audible data;

a decoder decoding encrypted digital data; and

a switch having

a first switch configuration which, when non-encrypted digital data is provided by the communication path, connects the digital information provided by the communication path to the converter without passing through the decoder so that the converter converts the digital data into at least one of visible and audible data,

a second switch configuration which, when encrypted digital data is provided by the communication path, connects the digital information provided by the communication path to the converter and the decoder so that the encrypted digital data is decoded by the decoder and then the decoded digital data is converted by the converter into at least one of visible and audible data,

a third switch configuration which, when non-encrypted digital data is read from the storage medium, connects the digital data read from the storage medium to the converter without passing through the decoder so that the converter converts the digital data into at least one of visible and audible data,

a fourth switch configuration which, when encrypted digital data is read from the storage medium, connects the digital data read from the storage medium to the converter and the decoder so that the encrypted digital data is decoded by the decoder and then the decoded digital data is converted by the converter into at least one of visible and audible data, and

a fifth switch configuration which connects the digital data provided by the communication path to the storage medium so that the digital data provided via the communication path is stored in the storage medium.

21. (ONCE AMENDED) A switch comprising:

a first switch position which connects digital data provided by a communication path to a converter that converts the digital data into at least one of visible and audible data;

a second switch position which connects digital data read from a storage medium to the